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ABSTRACT

This study explored public opinion with regard to educational vouchers and charter schools. It summarizes findings from an in-depth national survey conducted in 1999 of 1,200 members of the public, including 394 parents of school-age children. The study also examined parents' attitudes in several areas where vouchers and charter schools are now operating. The views of 833 community leaders were also determined. The chapters are: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Finding One: Some Catching Up To Do"; (3) "Finding Two: No Eureka, No Alarm"; (4) "Finding Three: First Impressions"; (5) "Finding Four: Charter Schools--So Far, So Good"; (6) "Finding Five: Will Parents Shop Around?"; (7) "Finding Six: No Gold Stars for the Status Quo"; (8) "An Afterword by Deborah Wadsworth." An attachment describes the survey methodology, and an appendix lists the experts interviewed. (Contains 5 tables and 19 endnotes.) (SLD)

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